



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**COUNTY OF GOOCHLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

*VIA ECFS*

March 7, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90  
Expression of Interest – Rural Broadband Experiments

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is to express Goochland County's interest in participating in the Rural Broadband Experiments announced at the January 30<sup>th</sup> Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Open Meeting. While we do not have a county owned project to propose, we take this opportunity to document Goochland County's need for high-speed Internet service. We respectfully ask the FCC to consider our County's need when making decisions regarding the Rural Broadband Trials and any future initiatives related to the Connect America Fund.

Specifically, the County is supportive of Adaptrum, Inc.'s Expression of Interest and project with CVA Link Broadband. These two companies are working jointly on a new promising "Super Wifi" through TV Whitespace spectrum within Goochland and other Central Virginia localities. It is our understanding that their Expression of Interest aims to obtain funding to further their efforts. The County is excited about the opportunities that this technology would provide and is willing to work with both Adaptrum, Inc. and CVA Link Broadband just as we work with other providers to extend affordable broadband for all our citizens.

Please be aware that for a long time both the Goochland County Board of Supervisors and County staff have been supportive of efforts to provide and increase broadband availability for all our citizens. In 2012 the Board initiated the Goochland High Speed Internet Committee (GHSIC), which as part of its work identified gaps in coverage of existing broadband providers. These gaps occur throughout the county, both east and west, affecting both residential and commercial areas.

For Goochland there is no one simple solution to provide County citizens and businesses with high speed Internet service. Goochland's topography (rolling hills and ridges) and dense woods (pine trees, etc.) routinely restrict wireless signals in outer coverage areas of towers from reaching customers. In addition, we routinely hear complaints from citizens that over reliance on 4G wireless service and the taxing of network infrastructure in rural areas negatively impact

1800 Sandy Hook Road  
P. O. Box 10, Goochland, Virginia 23063  
(804)556-5800 • (804)556-4617 Fax • (804)556-5317 TDD  
Email: [countyadmin@co.goochland.va.us](mailto:countyadmin@co.goochland.va.us)

March 7, 2014

Page 2

service and connection speed levels. These issues leave citizens desiring wireline (cable/fiber) service. Unfortunately, wireline service is not a solution for the majority of these individuals due to the absence of these services in our most rural areas. The rural nature of the county combined with wireline (cable/fiber) providers' density requirements keeps them from expanding service out any further.

Despite these challenges there are opportunities, such as the promising TV Whitespace Spectrum technology that Adaptrum, Inc. and CVA Link Broadband are actively working on. Through both their efforts and the efforts of other private providers, the gaps in coverage hopefully will shrink.

The County welcomes and encourages competition between broadband providers, including new innovative providers, especially those which will address these gaps in coverage. We, therefore, submit this Expression of Interest in support of that submitted by Adaptrum, Inc. and their project partner CVA Link.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Alvarez', written in a cursive style.

Manuel Alvarez, Jr.  
Chairman

c: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Rebecca T. Dickson, County Administrator  
Paul E. Drumwright, Senior Management and Projects Analyst